Vonders Worked by Mrs. Brown, the Treasury Expert in Washington-A Few Cases in Which Bills Were Apparently Bopelessly Destroyed.

The redemption division of the treasury department is one of the most interesting of its branches. It is here that mutilated money comes for identification, and the form in which it comes tells to the chief of the division many a romance and many a tale of woe. There is much that is humorous and much that is pathetic in Mrs. Brown's public experience. That experience ranges over nearly eighteen years now, and in that time millions of dollars have passed through her hands, most of it in such condition as to be beyond identification

by ordinary means. There is hardly any way you can think of in which money is not mutilated or partly destroyed. Men light their cigars with it when they are drunk; rats guaw it into tatters, and fire crisps it into brown ashes. Whenever there is a sudden cold snap at the beginning of winter the redemption division has a perfect harvest of mutilated money. One of the favorite hiding places which women have for their savings is the oven. When a cold day comes the woman probably forgets all about the money, builds a fire in the stove and cooks the bills to what is known in the cookbook as a "rich brown."

An interesting case is that of a woman living near Hamilton, O., who was burned to death. She had a pocketbook with her containing seventy dollars. Her children sent the pocketbook with its charred contents to the treasury department, and Mrs. Brown picked out the seventy dollars and identified it. A great deal of the money that comes in is partly burned. Wherever a part of the burned money can be identified and a satisfactory affidavit is furnished as to off. There are some fellows that won't the facts the government restores the wait." amount to the owner. But if a note is

entirely destroyed the government is just Much of the money which comes in for redemption has been damaged in railroad wrecks. When a car is burned in a railroad wreck no attempt is made by the express company to remove the money from the safe. The safe is sent direct to the treasury department and

opened there. The money is usually in a pretty badly charred condition. It is taken out, and the treasury experts go over it and identify as much of it as can be recognized. .Two years age a package containing \$22,000 was taken from a wreck near St. Louis, and all of the money was identified and restored to its owners.

A favorite hiding place for money with men who have no faith in banks is in their cellars. · A Philadelphia man sent \$280 which he had buried in a tin box under his cellar floor. When he took up the box he found the money mildewed bunch of tobacco leaves. It was almost impossible to distinguish the character of the notes with the naked eye. Mrs. Brown was picking apart the pieces bit by bit and arranging them on slips of brown paper cut to the size of a dollar bill. She said that she expected to identify the whole of it.

the stomach of a goat. The goat was not worth forty-two dollars, so he was sacriwas not a very nice task, but it was comparatively an easy one. When Mrs. Brown dropped the sticky mass into a basin of water the bills came apart and were very easily identified. This is not the only goat case which has come to the redemption division, and it has happened that even cows and pigs have been sacrificed to recover money which they had swallowed. There is one case on record where a baby swallowed some bank notes, and an emetic saved the money and possibly the baby. Babies do not often swallow an entire bill, but many affid vits are received accompaning por-tion of bills which say that the missing portions were swallowed by babies and "therefore wholly destroyed."
Usually when mutilated money is sent

in for redemption the owner has a close if not perfect idea of the amount which is represented, but one old German in the west sent in some years ago what he claimed to be the remains of \$5,000, and . after a long, long investigation Mrs. Brown fully identified \$7,100 in the package. A secret service agent was sent out to investigate the case, but he could discover nething that would throw light upon the mystery, and so the mistake was charged up to the old man's stupidity, and the department sent \$7,100

to him. The redemption division receives very frequently pieces torn from bills, accompanied by affidavits saying that the remainder of the notes has been destroy ed by mice. But the experts of the treasury department can tell in a minute whether a piece has been torn of,' or eaten off, and these petty frauds are never suc-

Treasurer Nebeker has a five dollar bill in his office made of sixteen pieces gut from five dollar notes matched so nicely that the ordinary eye would not detect the fraud. This composite note was sent in by a bank clerk in New York. The treasury experts detected the fraud immediately, and of course the bogus note was not redeemed.-Washington Cor. New York Press.

#### Little Economies

At a recent gathering half a dozen people who spend their tens of thousands every year acknowledged a reluctance to light fresh candles, and one lady who is noted for her magnificent toilets confessed to being very angry with her maid if she bought English pins instead of American-which piece of economy netted a saving of five cents on every paper, -New York Tribune.

improvidence Rebuked at a Loan Office, Where Cash is "Lent the Same Day." A gentleman suffering from financial disability went to a loan office to negotiate a borrow on his furniture. In the advertisement it stated that the money would be lent the same day by a Choctaw lady, without removal and upon the note of hand of the borrower. All this looked very fine in print.

"I've got \$10,000 worth of personal property," said the would be borrower, "and I have to meet a wash bill of \$3.50 coming due tomorrow noon. Can I get fitted out here so as to be in a position to meet the collector without a blush?"

The manager of the loan office was strangely silent. The would be borrower became nervous and thought he hadn't said the speech right, and so he began over again in this style: "I am a person of poor but honest par-

entage, temporarily embarrassed. I need the sum of \$3.50 to meet an unjust lia-

Still there was no answer. Then the borrower walked into the outside room and said to the office boy: "What's the matter with the manager?

Can't be talk?" "I guess it's because you haven't paid the entrance fee. No person is a member of this loan society until he has put

up one dollar." The borrower apologized and deposited the money. Next he repaired to the manager and repeated his original as-

sertion. "We charge one dollar more for bookage," said the manager. "What's bookage?",

"That's none of your business. One dollar, please." He paid the money, and the manager

wrote down something in a book. "Now give me two dollars to inspect the furniture." The borrower gave him the money.

in the afternoon and get our answer."

"But the money is due tomorrow." "Can't help it. Put 'em off." "But you can't put people like that

"Now call here next year at 2 o'clock

The manager smiled a superior smile. "Oh, no there aren't," he said. "You'll know a little more about waiting when

you get through with us." The borrower left the office reluctantly and returned the following year at 2 o'clock. Then the manager told him somewhat sternly that he couldn't lend money on that furniture because it had got too old. In vain the borrower represented that it was new when his claim was filed. The manager ended the interview by charging him \$1.25 storage on the "papers in the case," and then had the janitor throw him out. This ended the whole transaction. - New York Herald.

Eating Several Meals a Day. When, as rarely happens, English farm laborers come to this country, they find it extremely difficult to accommodate themselves to the current American custom of eating but three meals a day. An English maidservant and nurse, who and rotten. The package as it came lived to be more than 100 years old, into Mrs. Brown's hands looked like a averred that she had always been accustomed to "a dew bit and breakfast, a stray bit and dinner, a nommet, a crummet, and a bit after supper." Extra meals are common enough during the harvest season in this country. The hasty

breakfast at 3:30 in the morning is followed by a "stray bit" at 9 o'clock and by a luncheon between the noonday din-One man sent in some time ago forty, ner and the after sunset supper. In parts two dollars which had been taken from of southern Pennsylvania the dinner hour is 11 o'clock in the morning, and it would not be difficult to show that ficed. The identification of this money | Americans living on the same meridian are dining all the way from that hour until 7 in the evening. The great mass of country folk still dine at noon .- New York Sun.

A Very Ancient Canoe.

In 1831 a canoe hollowed out of the trunk of a tree was found at Bovey-Tracey, in Devonshire. It lay in a deposit of brick earth more than twentynine feet below the highest level reached by the waters of the Bovey. It was more than thirty-five inches wide, and its length could not be exactly determined, the workmen having broken it in getting it out. An eminent archæologist is of opinion that this boat dates from the glacial epoch—perhaps even from a more remote time. If this hypothesis, the re-sponsibility of which we leave to him, be correct, this is the most ancient witness in existence of prehistoric naviga-tion.—"Manners and Monuments of Prehistoric Peoples.

The Matter of Men's Dress. The cad will always out fashion the extreme fashions. The swell will observe the mode in all its fliceties and correctness, imparting from time to time

those deff touches of individualism that award to him premiership. The well dressed man will moderate the swell's ideal a trifle, so as to analy all suspicion in his own mind that he is exciting the undue scrutiny of his fellows. The ultra fashionable man will err intentionally upon rare occasions—in making sure of being on the safe side .-

Clothier and Furnisher.

A Celebrated Suicide. Haydon, the celebrated historical painter and writer, overcome by debt, disappointment and ingratitude, laid down the brush with which he was at work upon his last great effort, "Alfred and the Trial by Jury?" wrote with a steady hand, "Stretch me no longer upon this rough world," and then with a pistol shot put an end to his unhappy exist-ence,—Dr. C. W. Pilgrim in Popular Science Monthly.

A Gentleman.

Mrs. Upton-I saw Mr. Newton bowing with the most courtly grace, to a very commonplace woman. He's a gentleman of the old school, isn't he? Mr. Upton-No, a gentleman of the

new school. "New school?" "Yes. He lives in the suburbs, and that was his cook."-New York Weekly.

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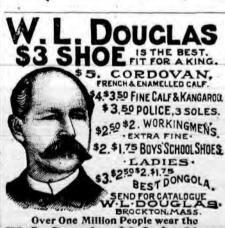
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